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STUDY CONFERENCE ON TEACHING ARABIC AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL. FINAL REPORT.

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A STUDY CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN SALT LAKE CITY IN 1963 ON THE TEACHING OF ARABIC AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL. THE DISCUSSION WAS CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH THE FOLLOWING TOPICS--(1) ADEQUACY OF THE AVAILABLE KHOURY ARABIC MATERIALS, (2) THE MEANS OF PERFORMING ANY NECESSARY REVISION OF THE MATERIALS, (3) THE MEANS OF REPRODUCING THE TEXTS AND RECORDINGS FOR ADDITIONAL EXPERIMENTAL USE, AND (4) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL ARABIC LANGUAGE PROGRAMS. THE CONFEREES AGREED TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT A SUITABLE SET OF TEACHING MATERIALS WOULD (1) PRESENT "MODERN STANDARD ARABIC," (2) HAVE THOSE LESSONS THAT FOCUSED ON DIALOG OR DIALOG-NARRATIVE MATERIALS BE REINFORCED BY DRILLS ON THE SOUND AND STRUCTURE SYSTEMS OF THE LANGUAGE, (3) PROVIDE MATERIALS FOR TEACHING READING AND WRITING, (4) WOULD HAVE AUDIO RECORDINGS OF BOTH EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN, AND (5) WOULD INCLUDE A TEACHER'S MANUAL. HOPE WAS ALSO EXPRESSED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO USE THE MATERIALS PREPARED BY DR. JOSEPH KHOURY AS THE BASIS FOR ANY FURTHER WORK THAT MIGHT BE DONE. (TC)

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Final Report on U.S. Office of
Education contract OE-4-14-025
with the University of Utah

STUDY-CONFERENCE ON TEACHING ARABIC AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL

December 15, 1963

Background

Under U.S. Office of Education contracts SAE-8964 (with Bountiful, Utah, Public Schools) and OE-2-14-009 (with Dr. Joseph Khoury) there have been produced two "levels" of secondary school materials for teaching the Arabic language. These materials are expected to be published in the spring of 1964. The materials have been given trial use in a number of secondary schools in the area of Bountiful, Utah, in classes taught by Dr. Khoury.

It has recently become advisable to make certain determinations with respect to the materials and their future use. These determinations required consultation among persons representing 1) Arabic linguistic scholarship and teaching, 2) the general field of second language teaching and 3) certain communities and geographic areas in which there is the likehood that the teaching of Arabic might soon be introduced at the secondary school level.

In order to facilitate the consultation noted above, the University of Utah, acting through Professor Aziz Atiya, director of its Middle Eastern Language and Area Center, proposed to sponsor a conference of such persons. The proposal was approved for support by the U.S. Office of Education as contract OE-4-14-025 under Section 602 of the NDEA. The following named individuals attended the 2-day meeting November 20 and 21, 1963, in Salt Lake City:

Dr. Joseph Khoury, Bountiful, Utah
Dr. Ernest McCarus, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Mr. Majed Sa'id, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
Mr. Hilario Peña, Foreign Language Supervisor, Los Angeles, California
Dr. Naida Dostal, Foreign Language Supervisor, Detroit, Michigan

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Mr. Emilio Guerra, Foreign Language Supervisor, New York, N.Y.
Mr. Everett O'Rourke, Supervisor of Secondary Education, California State Department of Education
Mr. Dale Miller, Foreign Language Supervisor, State of Utah
Mr. Clemens Hallman, Foreign Language Supervisor, State Of Indiana
Dr. Sami Hanna, University of Utah
Dr. William Mulder, University of Utah
Dr. Aziz Atiya, University of Utah
Dr. D. Lee Hamilton, U.S. Office of Education
Dr. A. Bruce Gaarder, U.S. Office of Education

Procedures

1. The contract under which the conference was supported set forth the following suggested agenda to guide the group discussion:

1. The adequacy of the Khoury Arabic materials.
2. The means of performing any necessary revision of the Khoury materials.
3. The means of reproducing the texts and recordings for additional experimental use.
4. The establishment of additional secondary school Arabic language programs.
5. The problem of securing and training teachers of the Arabic language.
6. The adoption of safeguards in order to assure instruction of high quality.

Under the informal chairmanship of Dr. Hamilton, the discussion centered principally on items 1,2,3, and 4, and included the problem of establishing a formal means of communication among foreign language supervisors and other individuals interested in the teaching of Arabic in secondary schools.

2. The entire group visited the Arabic language classes taught by Dr. Khoury at Bountiful (Utah) High School and by Dr. Sami Hanna at Highland High School in Salt Lake City.

3. There was much discussion, led by Professors Ernest McCarus and Majed Sa'id, of the problems of teaching Arabic: the relationships between Classical Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic, and between these two and the several vernaculars. This discussion served to orient the conferees regarding the variant of Arabic that might best be taught to American high school students and the problems associated with such teaching.

4. The conferees agreed to establish an informal newsletter which would be sent to themselves and other interested parties on November 1, February 1, and May 1 of each year. Mr. Clemens Hallman agreed to serve as editor of the newsletter for one year, receive news items pertinent to the teaching of Arabic in secondary schools and distribute them from his office in Indiana. The deadlines for submitting such items were set as January 15, April 15, and October 15.

5. The conferees came to the conclusion that a suitable set of teaching materials would have the following features:

a. It would present "Modern Standard Arabic."
b. It would have lessons focussing on dialogue or dialogue-narrative materials reinforced by drills on the sound and structure systems of the language.
c. It would provide suitable materials for teaching reading and writing.
d. It would have at least 2 sets of audio recordings, one by an Egyptian, and one by a Syrian (using the "greater Syrian" dialect). This is because even though the course would present Modern Standard Arabic, each teacher must inevitably pronounce it in the sound system of his own dialect (whether native or acquired as a second language).
e. It would include a teachers manual.

The conferees expressed the hope that every effort would be made to use the Khoury materials as the basis for any further work that might be done to achieve the desiderata set forth above as a,b,c, and d.

It was the consensus that Dr. McCarus should undertake to guide the work of revision, utilizing if possible the services of persons close to him in Ann Arbor in order to facilitate the work.

6. Mr. Hilario Peña expressed his belief in the likelihood of being able to begin Arabic instruction in Los Angeles in September 1964. Mr. Hallman said the same of Michigan City, Indiana. The other supervisors were hopeful that such instruction might begin in September of 1965. In each of these cases the

availability of materials would be a strong governing factor. Dr. Hamilton expressed the continued interest of the U.S. Office of Education in furthering this aspect of foreign language development.

7. The conference broke up at 4:30 p.m. November 21, 1963, with warm expressions of appreciation to the University of Utah and its representatives, to Bountiful High School and to the U.S. Office of Education.